

March 21, 2010

Via US Mail and Electronic Mail

Joe Grindstaff
Executive Officer
Delta Stewardship Council
980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: CV-SALTS Technical Advisory Committee and Executive Committee Responses to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Groundwater Strategy Question and process

Dear Mr. Grindstaff

The Central Valley Salinity Alternative for Long Term sustainability (CV-SALTS) has been following the Delta Stewardship Council's efforts and appreciates the opportunity to comment on the initial draft of the Water Quality Improvement (Chapter 7) of the Delta Plan. The CV-SALTS Initiative is a stakeholder driven effort with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and State Water Resources Control Board addressing regulatory and non-regulatory solutions to long term salt balance for economic and environmental sustainability in the Central Valley. We very much appreciate the Delta Plan chapter recognizing the critical role of salinity to the Delta and to the water supplies coming through the Delta to the Central Valley.

CV-SALTS Initiative with Stakeholder funding from the Central Valley Salinity Coalition completed a Salt and Nitrate Source Study which indicated that a major source of salinity to the Central Valley is irrigation water entering the valley through the Delta and mineral dissolution of salt from irrigation. All users of Central Valley waters should be engaged in CV-SALTS. Efforts to implement the Delta Plan can benefit from the long term strategies and innovative implementation opportunities being developed for real solutions to both to salts and nutrients entering the valley and leaving the valley and entering the Delta.

We understand the timeline of the Delta Plan does not permit detailed integration with CV-SALTS; however we appreciate your recommendation WQ R4 that all water users should be participating with CV-SALTS and we stand ready to assist you in future more detailed versions of the Delta Plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the development of this formative document for the Delta at a time when water quality is so critical.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Parry Klassen', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Parry Klassen
Chair, Executive Committee CV-SALTS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela C. Creedon', with a large, looping initial 'P'.

Pamela C. Creedon
Executive Officer, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board